

# Delegates discuss budget

## Meeting not posted; sole Republican wasn't told

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One local lawmaker is very upset with the Sullivan County Executive Finance Committee for holding a public meeting on Monday and not telling anyone.

**Newport** "The meetings have to be posted," Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, said. "The reason is so members of the public can attend the meetings."

EFC Chairperson Brenda Ferland, I-Charlestown, said they were only having a work session and not a meeting.

When asked why seven members of the county delegation were gathered for an unposted meeting, Ferland said it wasn't a meeting.

"I tried to post it on Friday, but the office was closed," Ferland said. She also said it was a continuation of Friday's EFC meeting.

Rodeschin was upset that seven lawmakers would not follow their own rules.

"We're hypocrites if we hold meetings and don't post them," Rodeschin said. "When we're doing the public's business, it must be posted."

The EFC met to discuss its version of the proposed 2008 county budget.

The county has been operating without a budget since July 1.

During the meeting, delegates discussed the budget for the nursing home, nursing staff and food service. In the afternoon the nursing home administrator and county manager were questioned about specific budget items.

Ferland said they would not vote on any items for the budget during Monday's meeting.

"But if we do need to vote, I will post a meeting notice for Wednesday," Ferland said.

When Rodeschin heard the EFC  
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was having an unposted meeting, she arrived and told the delegates they were breaking the law.

"We're lawmakers," Rodeschin said. "Lawmakers should be held accountable. We are not sacred cows."

Those attending the meeting were Ferland, Larry Converse, D-Claremont, Sue Gottling, D-

Sunapee, John Cloutier, D-Claremont, Tom Donovan, D-Claremont, Arthur Jillette, D-Goshen, and Peter Franklin, D-Newport.

Rodeschin did not know if there was any recourse for holding an unposted meeting, but she said she would look into the matter.

"They were completely out of

line," Rodeschin said. "It's against the law and it's the public's right to know."

On Monday evening an EFC meeting notice was posted for 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 11, to review the budget.

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